

Leisure Access Services Miami Dade Parks and Recreation



5th Annual Family Festival

Saturday, February 23, 2008 Leisure Access Services and Creative Children's Therapy held their 5th Annual Family Festival of Arts & Games. It was a huge success! There were many activities available to the children and their families at the festival. Such activities included arts & crafts, fencing, rock climbing, bounce house, carnival games, and so much more. There were also many performances including and orchestra made up of children, Leisure Access dancers, and CCT dancers. Over five hundred people

joined in on the fun. Leisure Access would like to thank Creative Children's, Miami Dade Cultural Affairs, The Children's Trust and everyone else who made this event possible.



Special Olympics

The weekend of February 23-24, Leisure Access participants competed in the Special Olympics. The event that took place was Track & Field. LAS received six medals. In the Shot put event, there were three first places and one second place. In the 100 meter dash, there was one third place and one fifth place. WAY TO GO! It was an honor to be represented by this amazing group of people. We would like to extend a personal congratulation to Michael Fernandez. Michael was nominated by his coach, Avery Coats, as this year's Athlete of the Year. The main reason Avery chose Michael was due to his determination and will to compete. We wish all our participants the best of luck in any upcoming events.



Arlene Bouza-Jou receives an Excellence Award

Arlene Bouza-Jou was given the honor of receiving an award during the The Children's Trust: Champions for Children Awards Ceremony 2007. It was an Excellence Award in Public Service "for showing selfless dedication in the direct service of children". Arlene has been working for Miami Dade Parks since 1987. She is currently a Recreation Specialist at Tamiami Park and is in charge of organizing and implementing many program activities for children with disabilities. She is also in charge of many special events, such as the Family Festival on February 23, 2008. Arlene shows passion for what she does each and every day. She deserves this award. Congratulations Arlene!

Fencing Program in NBC

NBC did a special report on our fencing program for children with disabilities at Tamiami Park. First, the report was shown during the section of “making a difference” in Dateline NBC. They focused on our fencing instructor, Maximo, and how he has made a difference in these children’s lives. Some days later, NBC local featured the fencing program during the section “Spirit of South Florida”. It was a beautiful and touching story. Leisure Access is proud of the fencing program as well as of our fencing champion Maximo.



Our new Recreational Therapist

This past January, we had a new addition to the Leisure Access Team. Kimberly Fowler was hired as the Recreational Therapist at Coral Estates Park. When asked how her experience working for LAS has been so far, Kim stated “LAS has been entirely welcoming. Everybody is offering help and encouragement from the start. Everybody is working for the same goal and it shows in what they do and how they do it”. Kim graduated from Southern Connecticut State University. Since then, she has worked at a nursing home in Connecticut, a security prison in Georgia, and hospitals in Georgia and Florida. For the last ten years, she had been working at a hospital in Broward. She chose the parks department to experience Recreation Therapy in a different setting than clinical. She feels she can use her talents more efficiently in the community setting. As a LAS staff, she is hoping to learn more about the profession and make a difference in changing someone’s life for the better. Kim stated, “I am just thankful for the opportunities that I believe Miami Dade County Parks and Recreation and Leisure Access will provide me, both personally and professionally”.

Shoot for Goal

Leisure Access at Coral Estates Park runs a soccer program for children with autism. It takes place every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30 PM. The cost is \$35 for eight weeks plus a one time registration fee of \$10. Come join us as we teach the fundamentals of Soccer: passing, dribbling, and shooting for the goal. For further information, contact Kimberly Fowler at 305-226-1622.

Wheelchair Tennis

If you are looking for something to do on Saturday mornings, join us for our wheelchair tennis program. Whether you are a novice or an expert, you can practice every Saturday morning at the Big Five Club, 600 SW 92nd Ave. The lessons are given by a professional tennis coach. The program is free and it is available for anyone age 16 and up who uses a wheelchair. For more information contact Ingrid Berges at 305-752-4966.

Walk now for Autism

On February 10, Leisure Access participated in the Walk Now for Autism. We raised over \$300. Thousands of people participated in the walk. The event was a huge success!



Joining us from Union City, Tennessee

This semester, Leisure Access has a visitor from Tennessee. Jason Scott is an intern from the University of Tennessee. Why Leisure Access in Miami? Jason says he chose LAS because he had not experienced Recreational Therapy in the community setting. Most of his experience had been in outdoor recreation with an emphasis on persons with physical and multiple disabilities. He wanted his internship to compliment his academic and volunteer experience he had at UT. Jason received his B.S. in Exercise Science on May 2004. He then decided to complete his M.S. in Recreation and Leisure Studies with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation. He is going to graduate this May 2008. When it comes to his experience in LAS Jason says: "It has been absolutely terrific. Seeing a variety of programming, plentiful resources, along with a remarkable staff have won me over. I expected a good experience, but words cannot explain how this internship has impacted and shaped my life". As far as living in Miami, besides the traffic and high gas prices, he has enjoyed his life here. The food and the diversity of people are some of his favorite things about this city. After graduation, Jason is going to get certified and start his career wherever he feels fits his talents. MDPR is definitely an option he would like to have.



Spring Camp

Leisure Access will be running their spring camp for children with disabilities from March 31 through April 4, 2008.

Participants will take part in different activities, such as swimming, arts & crafts, sports, field trips, literacy activities, & social skills. For further information, please contact one of the numbers below.

Contact Information

Leisure Access

Administrative

275 NW 2nd St

305-755-7848/ TDD: 305-755-7980

AD Barnes

3401 SW 72 Ave

305-335-5319/TDD: 305-669-4052

Coral Estates Park

1405 SW 97 Ave

305-226-1622/TDD: 305-222-2128

Goulds Park

11350 SW 216th St

305-234-1673/TDD: 305-234-1712

Greynolds Park

17530 W. Dixie Highway

305-945-3425

Camp Matecumbe

11400 SW 137 Ave

305-752-4966/TDD: 305-385-6230

Tamiami Park

11201 SW 24 St

305-222-2128/TDD: 305-222-2175

Westwind Lakes

6805 SW 152 Ave

305-380-9106